

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

GOLD ADDITIVE FOR A CATHODE INCLUDING NICKEL OXYHYDROXIDE FOR AN ALKALINE BATTERY

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

The gamma-nickel oxyhydroxide can be prepared by oxidizing (e.g., by ozonation) alpha-nickel hydroxide. See, for example, U.S. ~~Appl. Patent~~ No. ~~09/633,067~~ 6,492,062, which is incorporated by reference in its entirety. Gamma-nickel oxyhydroxide that is prepared by oxidation of beta-nickel hydroxide can experience relatively large crystallographic expansion, which results in fragmentation of the resultant gamma-nickel oxyhydroxide particles. Fragmentation of the particles can increase the interfacial area of the gamma-nickel oxyhydroxide electrode in contact with the electrolyte, resulting in increased oxidation of water in the electrolyte and a significant capacity loss upon storage. When alpha-nickel hydroxide is used as the precursor, the crystallographic lattice expansion is minimal and the degree of fracturing can be significantly reduced, which in turn, can lower the extent of self-discharge because of a decrease in the cathode interfacial area in contact with the electrolyte. See, for example, U.S. ~~Appl. Patent~~ No. ~~09/633,067~~ 6,492,062.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

The zinc particles can be any of the zinc particles conventionally used in slurry anodes. Examples of zinc particles can include those described in U.S. ~~Patent Appl. No. 08/905,254~~ 6,284,410, U.S. Appl. No. 09/115,867, or U.S. ~~Patent Appl. No. 09/156,915~~ 6,521,378, each of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. The anode can include, for example,

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between 60 wt % and 80 wt %, between 65 wt % and 75 wt%, or between 67 wt % and 71 wt %
of zinc particles.